



# Consumer Alert

## Lifeline and Link-up: Eligibility Requirements Have Been Expanded

The Michigan Public Service Commission urges qualifying low-income residents to apply for the Link-Up America and Lifeline Telephone Assistance Programs. These programs make basic local telephone service more affordable for income-eligible families throughout Michigan. Those who qualify could receive discounts for monthly telephone bills and/or initial installation costs of telephone service.

### What are the benefits?

**Lifeline** provides discounts for basic local wireline telephone service to eligible low-income customers.\*

- Eligible low-income customers under age 65 can receive a minimum discount of \$8.25 per month (the current average discount is \$10.00 per month and varies depending on the provider).
- Eligible low-income customers 65 years of age or older can receive a discount of \$12.35 per month.

**Link-Up** reduces the installation charge for phone service by 50%, up to \$30, for telephone service for those customers meeting income eligibility guidelines. Customers can request a deferred payment schedule for the remaining installation charges.

The rate reductions for both Lifeline and Link-Up cannot be greater than the cost of the basic service.

\* Discount and reductions only apply to wireline telephone service.

### How do you apply?

All local wireline telephone service providers in Michigan are required to provide Link-Up and Lifeline. Contact your local telephone company to apply. The phone number and information on Lifeline and Link-Up can generally be found in the front of your telephone book. You may be asked to provide documentation to demonstrate your eligibility.

### Who is eligible?

To qualify for Link-Up and/or Lifeline, the customer's household income must be at or below the guidelines listed in the chart, or the customer must participate in one of the following assistance programs:

- Medicaid,
- Food Stamps,
- Supplemental Security Income (SSI),
- Federal Public Housing Assistance (Section 8),
- Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP),
- Temporary Assistance to Needy Families, or
- The National School Lunch Program's Free Lunch

<u>150% of Poverty Guideline's Maximum Income</u>	
<u># of Household Members</u>	<u>Annual Income</u>
1	\$15,315
2	\$20,535
3	\$25,755
4	\$30,975
5	\$36,195
6	\$41,415
7	\$46,635
8	\$51,855
For each Additional Household Member, Add	\$5,220

